THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) In pursuance of the announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister on New Initiatives for the North-eastern region, a High Level Commission constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri S. P. Shukla, Member, Planning Commission has identified the backlog in respect of Basic Minimum Services and infrastructural needs in the North-Eastern region and recommended measures for tackling this backlog. These *inter-alia* include substantial step up in provision for Basic Minimum Services and large investments in specific infrastructural projects in critical sectors such as power, transport, irrigation and flood control.

(b) Planning Commission have completed the exercise of assessing the requirement of funds for operationlisation of the High Level Commission's recommendations in respect of each State for the current year. A mechanism for locating resources to meet the requirement of funds for this purpose is also being worked out.

(c) Acceleration of development programmes in the region in Basic Minimum Service and for infrastructural improvement would undoubtedly be welcomed by the people of the North-Eastern States.

Poverty in North-Eastern Region

1048. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extreme poverty exists in the rural and tribal areas of North-Eastern States in general and Assam in particular;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken and propose to take to reduce and minimise poverty in rural and tribal areas of North-Eastern region within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty following the methodology outlined in the report of Expert Group on estimation of Proportion and Number of poor. The estimates of poverty has been made from the latest quinquennial survey held in 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round). The poverty ratio is estimated as 45.01% in rural areas of Assam in 1993-94. The Expert Group has not made separate estimates of poverty for North-Eastern States and the poverty ratio for Assam has been adopted for other North-Eastern States. Separate estimates for the tribal areas are not available.

(c) In order to tackle the problem of rural poverty in the country including North-Eastern region the Government have adopted a three pronged strategy namely;

(i) acceleration of economic growth with the objective of generating greater employment in the growth process itself;

(ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc. Towards this end, the Government introduced a Basic Minimum Services Programme last year with a total provision of Additional Central Assistance to States of Rs. 2244 crores to support the efforts of the States for universal coverage of identified seven BMS in time bound manner; and

(iii) direct attack on poverty through supplementary employment and income generating programmes and

asset-building for the poor. The major anti-poverty programmes are the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS).

In addition, the Shukla Commission, has identified backlogs in Basic Minimum Services as also gaps in infrastructure in North-Eastern States and has also assessed requirement of funds for this purpose in respect of each North-Eastern State. Although the requirement of resources assessed by Shukla Commission is large, steps have been initiated to operationalise the recommendations of Shukla Commission in a modest way and to evolve a mechanism for locating resources for this purpose. The quality of life in these States would gradually improve once the implementation of various programmes recommended under the Shukla Commission commences.

भारत के निर्यात को बढ़ाने में राज्य सरकारों की भागीदारी

1049. **श्री शमशेर सिंह सुरजेवाला:**
श्री अजीत जोगी:

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या योजना आयोग ने आगामी तीन वर्षों में देश के निर्यात को दो गुना करने के लिए राज्य सरकारों को प्रभावी ढंग से सम्मिलित करने हेतु कोई नीति तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रत्नमाला देहरेश्वर सवनूर): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता। तथापि निर्यात को बढ़ाने हेतु राज्यों का प्रभावी योगदान, जिसमें निर्यात सामग्री के स्वतंत्र संचलन के लिए अन्तर्राज्यीय अवरोधों/महसूलों को हटाना भी शामिल है, एक नीतिगत उपाय के रूप में आवश्यक है।

Performance of the States in Mobilising Resources

1050. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the performance of the States in mobilising resources during the Eighth Plan; State-wise and year-wise;

(b) how does this performance compare with the original targets of resource mobilisation;

(c) what are the reasons for the shortfalls, if any; and

(d) what measures are contemplated to ensure that shortfalls do not take place in the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) Statement showing the State-wise performance of mobilisation of resources, as per the latest available data and its comparison with respect to the original targets is annexed (*see below*). Though the nature and extent of shortfall in resource mobilisation varies from State to State, analysis has revealed that the shortfall has been mainly in the balance from the current revenues, net contribution of State public enterprises and in the utilisation of external assistance. Thus the main reason for the shortfall is the inability of the States to raise resources to the committed level.

(d) The States have been advised to improve tax and non tax collection, reduce non-plan revenue expenditure and losses incurred by the State Enterprises and to speed up implementation of externally aided projects.